

Cornelian Cherry Dogwood

Cornus mas

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Summary:

Foliage: Oval, about 3 inches long; deciduous

Height: About 20 feet

Spread: About 15 feet

Shape: Round to oval multi-stem large shrub or small tree

Main features: Cornelian cherry dogwood is a multi-stem large shrub or small tree depending on how one prunes it. In either case, its main showy characteristic is in February/March at which time it produces numerous small yellow flowers which collectively are quite showy. Fruit that resemble cherries in color and size (but more oval in shape) are abundantly produced in July/August. This is one of the toughest (tolerant of adverse conditions) dogwood species.

Plant Needs:

Zone: 4 to 7

Light: Full sun to part shade

Moisture: Average to dry

Soil type: Most soils except those that are poorly-drained

pH range: Acid to alkaline

Functions:

Cornelian cherry dogwood can be used anywhere a small deciduous tree is appropriate. This species can be used as a hedge (tolerant of pruning), barrier/border plant. Like all small flowering trees, this plant is best viewed with a dark background, such as dark foliaged conifers or broad-leaved evergreens, to make the flowers more conspicuous. Since fruit drop creates a messy situation, plants are best suited for lawns or mulched beds to minimize maintenance.

Care:

No special care is needed for this species. Since fruit drop creates a messy situation, plants are best suited in lawns or mulch beds to minimize maintenance.

Additional Information:

There are few cultivars in the trade. Here are a few of the notable ones:

'Golden Glory' upright heavy flowering cultivar; good for colder climates

'Spring Glow' good flower production and handsome foliage; good for southern climates; very few fruit produced in the south

'Variegata' variegated form with cream-white margins; very handsome cultivar; large plants glow in the landscape when planted in front of a dark background